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SECURITY INFORMATION

31 August 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR COP

VIA: FB I

SUBJECT: Summary of Facts Pertaining to Boats for BGFIEND

Reference:

- a. Project outline for BGFIEND, approved 22 June 1949
- b. [ ] of 5 July 1949
- c. Washg cable 6246 of 7 July 1949
- d. Memo from FB I and DCO to COP of 3 August 1949  
(T.S. # 31342) on subject of London meetings with  
[ ] on July 18-22, 1949
- e. [ ] 3179 of 2 August 1949
- f. Washg cable 7734 of 3 August 1949
- g. [ ] 448 of 4 August 1949
- h. Washg cable 8147 of 11 August 1949
- i. Washg cable 8497 of 18 August 1949

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED TO

*Secret*

BY AUTHORITY OF 100-1-58-41  
ACCOMPLISHED [ ] R/LB

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1. At your request I have summarized in the following paragraph the salient facts surrounding the question of boats for BGFIEND.

2. Reference (a) contains the following:

a. "8. ... the project also entails the hire or purchase of light shipping and aircraft. In the case of aircraft and shipping special precautions will be observed with reference to procurement and operation to the end that cover may be maintained."

3. On 2 July 1949 we sent cable Wash 6126 to [ ] informing him of the availability of [ ] "who had experience wartime small boat operations."

4. In reference (b) [ ] requested [ ] report to him in London "since most suitable craft our needs available for purchase in the United Kingdom."

5. In reference (c) we queried [ ] "What is type of craft available in UK." No cable answer was received to this query but apparently Washington had in mind at this juncture a communication ship to broadcast propaganda.

6. Reference (d) contains the following: [ ] explained his requirement for a boat as being connected with the need for water transport which could assist if necessary in clandestine removals from Italy and/or Greece, and which would not under any circumstances enter into the actual operational area. For this purpose, he was examining, through British connections, two craft in the UK, one a 110 foot converted Fairmile and the other a specially constructed British Q-type trawler. The cost of either of these craft he estimated at £ 5000 - 6000."

7. [ ] left [ ] for [ ] on 24 July without any further action on boats that appears on any records available to me.

8. Reference (e) contains the following:

a. "Request permission expend up to \$10,000 and purchase Greek Island type motor sailer for current reconnaissance and eventual operational work vicinity Ionian Island and Pixie Coast. During operations this craft will function as feeder to special high speed landing craft about which will advise later. It will also be used for clandestine evacuation of Pixies from Greece if necessary. Please advise [ ]"

9. Washg cable 7734 replied to the above as follows:

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a. "Recommend strongly against purchase that or any boat. Concealing ownership or relationship to seagoing craft regarded too difficult under all considerations nationality crew, registration, insurance, movement, papers, maintenance, and supply. Consider boat described suitable and necessary later stage of operation but any boat should be acquired on charter thru suitable cut-out, who if exposed will represent committee, and operational instructions issued to boat via separate cut-out. Please advise meaning and purpose current reconnaissance, location and ownership boat in mind, together with anticipated duration and cost of charter."

10. In reference (g), para 13, there appears:

a. "Have purchased small operational craft for purely coastal operations for sum of 200 gold sovereigns (approx dollars 1700). This is unique boat these waters and required immediate decision on purchase. If for any reason this purchase not approved I can sell to British for price paid since they anxious have it. This should not be confused with larger craft for which I requested authorization."

11. Reference (h) replied as follows:

a. "To enable us assess purchase of boat mentioned at the 488 (In 39170) report details its characteristics, location, past ownership and habits, nationality, number and type crew and your plans for its employment including marine risk insurance, payment crew, upkeep, maintenance and wharfage charges."

12. The next reference to any boat appears in Romeg 3270 dated 17 August as follows:

a. "Have excellent opportunity obtain 15 knot 72 foot twin diesel craft in sound condition, admirably suited our purposes and with good cover possibilities due past charters. Since you do not desire actually purchase any craft, this is rare chance Mediterranean area obtain services of just right type craft on charter basis. If plan go ahead with operations, boat such as this will be essential for communication work between base and forward area. It can be chartered as is less crew for 1000 dollars monthly for initial period eight months with extensions thereafter. Crew of 4 can be arranged separately. Will forward full details but meanwhile require reply by Thursday as owner has two firm offers to purchase and will not hold for me beyond Thursday without definite word."

13. The above cable was answered by reference (i) as follows:

[ ] "BGFIEND. We realize ultimate need for boat of type stated (In 40189) but consider it premature to effect charter at this time. Your initiative appreciated but we accept calculated risk of later nonavailability boat type needed."

14. The last reference to boats is in [ ] as follows:

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SECURITY INFORMATION

a. "Ref Wash 8497 (Out 87482) have discontinued all efforts obtain vessels. Ref [ ] (In 39170), turned over craft mentioned to British.

[ ]  
Naval Support Officer

cc: NSO FIEND File

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